

Yes of HB 3025B

The Center for Hope and Safety respectfully urges your support for HB 3025B, which would ban most employers from inquiring about a job applicant's criminal history prior to an interview or preliminary offer of employment if no interview is offered.

The Center for Hope and Safety is a non-profit organization in Salem, Oregon that has been providing comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking since 1973. We believe in smart public safety policies that provide accountability for those who commit crimes, and ensure the availability of resources and safety protections for crime survivors. In addition, it is critical that our public safety system prioritize strategies to prevent crime and provide opportunities for victims to recover and for perpetrators to rehabilitate.

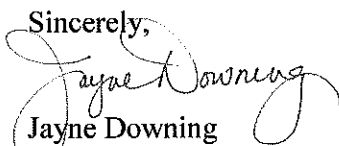
Employment opportunities for people with past convictions is a public safety issue. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) reports that more than 650,000 individuals are released from prison every year. HB 3025B will remove a potential barrier to employment and help ensure that these individuals have a fair chance at finding gainful work. The income, health benefits and social stability associated with employment are essential elements in preventing future criminal activity.

When offenders re-entering society are gainfully employed, they are not only less likely to recidivate, they are also more likely to be able to pay their obligations, such as restitution to crime victims, and support for dependent children.

It is also important to remember that a significant percentage of women who are incarcerated have been victims of domestic or sexual violence. Often, their victimization has had a direct connection to their criminal activity. Upon release, these victims struggle with significant barriers to successful re-entry. A fair chance at gainful employment would help these victims achieve rehabilitation.

HB 3025B is narrowly tailored so as not to impose a burden on employers or prevent employers from making the hiring decisions that are right for them. Employers can still check an applicant's criminal record and consider the circumstances and implications of that record prior to finalizing an employment offer. For all the reasons outline above, we ask that you support passage of HB 3025B. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Jayne Downing  
Executive Director

# Center for **HOPE & SAFETY**



*Formerly Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service*

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**because everyone deserves a life free of violence**